

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 14, 19 to 23, 28 to 33 and 37 to 49 are pending. Claim 44 is cancelled.

No claims are allowed.

1. The Applicants would like to thank Examiners Jay Sigler and Eduardo Robert for the time they took on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 to interview with inventor Patrick White and his attorney regarding the merits of the pending claims. The substance of the meeting is essentially as set forth in the Interview Summary.

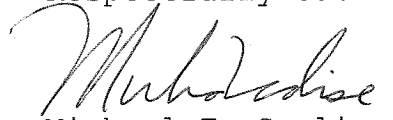
2. Independent claims 1, 37, 47 and 48 have been further amended to set forth that the complex aperture extends through the plate thickness and is comprised of at least two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof. In the complex aperture, any two immediately adjacent overlapping holes comprise a compression ramp extending from an oval shaped opening at the top side of the plate downwardly and inwardly part way through the plate thickness to a threaded lower portion having an hourglass shape. The lower portion extends from where the upper portion ends at the hourglass shape to the bottom side of the bone plate with threaded surfaces of the overlapping holes meeting each other at an overlap forming the hourglass shape. The lower portion is adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw in one or the other of the overlapping holes.

It is noted that the claimed oval shaped opening for the complex aperture essentially has the shape of a rectangle with rounded corners. Support for this is found in the specification Figs. 1a, 1b, 1d, 2a, 2b, 5, 6a and 7.

Entry of these amended claims into the record of the application is requested.

It is believed that claims 1 to 4, 6 to 14, 19 to 23, 28 to 33, 37 to 43 and 45 to 49 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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